
Title: Ponderings on Purpose I

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A meeting was recently held in the hallowed halls of the Trinsic Town Council of Honor, inspired and lead by Annunzio, a long time friend of the Heralds of the Awakening. I imagine the transcript of that meeting will be posted in the near future, but the information shared, and the questions asked were quite valuable, at least in my eyes. Ever since that meeting I have had a string of my own questions, and answers, which lead me to share some of my thoughts with you this day.

The crux of the issue revolves around the nature of the Virtues in our day and age. Naturally, the definition of this particular question will be different for each individual that you pose it to. But the HoA is an organization that was created with some specific intentions in mind, intentions that we felt were a natural growth of our commitment to the Virtues.

So in pondering the question in the context of our purpose, the answer lies in our philosophy only in part. The larger, and more important piece lies in the quantifiable, every day actions of our

organization as a whole.
Let me elaborate.

For each Principle, we have a representative Oracle. In theory, the Oracles of Truth, Love and Courage are the steering committee of the HoA. They guide and inspire, lead and support the Sages in their work throughout the land. However, the work of the Oracle is also more than simply administration. It involves interacting with the public, living lives that embody not only their Principle, but every Principle. And in adopting the Principles of Truth, Love and Courage, they in turn embrace the lessons and wisdom that are part and parcel of the Eight Virtues as well.

Additionally, this philosophy obviously applies to each Sage and Herald. A specific Sage of Virtue in our organization embraces the philosophy of the Virtues as a whole, seeing their part as but a piece of the greater message that is the Virtues.

I mentioned the importance of quantifiable, measurable actions to an organization like the Heralds of the Awakening. Living a Virtuous life, while important (yet subjective) is quite difficult to measure. It is the subjective nature of living a good and Virtuous life that opens the members of our organization up to unjust, and unfair criticisms. This is to say, You may be a good person, but perceptions of your intent can cast you in a light

that may or may not be
a fair judgment of your
character.

We have all dealt with
the unreasonable, sour
individuals who would
attack your character
simply because of your
station in the community.

I have much to say on
this point, but I will not
stray to far from the
subject at hand. Allow me
to sum my thoughts
thusly: There are people
in this world who gauge
their success via the
conquest of others. From
their vantage point, the
only way to gain success
or esteem in the eyes of
the community is to do
so on the backs of
others. As this is their
way, they assume that it
is the way of others as
well.

This is a useful tool for
our Oracles, Sages and
Heralds when we are
confronted by those who
dislike the HoA because
of our influence or our
power to affect change
in the realm. Those that
would attack us or
question our motives are
in essence questioning
themselves. Because they
would abuse such power,
because they would have
hurt others in their
ascension to a position of
influence, they assume
that others would as well.
I mention this because it
directly relates to the
issue at hand.

I personally know that
the HoA is made up of
individuals who have a
strong commitment to
living their lives in
service to the Virtues.
But how do we stand on

that as the only example
of the HoA's good works?
We cannot! And so we
find ourselves back to
the mission of the HoA.
Building community through
quantifiable, measurable
projects and events that
while fun and enlightening,
are inspired by the
Virtues. If words can
ever truly do justice to
our cause, that is a
close approximation of our
purpose. But to be
effective, these projects
and events must be
directed by the Oracles,
implemented by the Sages,
and supported by the
Heralds.

Naturally, this begs the
question: What are these
projects and events?
Were I to simply share
just the ideas in my own
head, the list would fill
the books of the
Lycaeum. Yet as an
Oracle, it falls to me to
guide our organization
towards the completion
and celebration of these
measurable tasks. And it
falls to every one of us
to evaluate our part in
the implementation, and
judge the outcomes of
these events for the
betterment of our
organization as a whole.

And with this being said,
allow me to share what
the HoA has committed
to doing as an
organization. These are
the current projects and
events that we will
endeavor to complete and
support in the coming
months, and years to
come. These are the four
corner stones of our
work, and the tools we
shall use to measure our
impact, our success, and

our areas of growth.

Support of Town Councils
Each Sage, and their
Heralds, will support the
organization of true Town
Councils of Virtue. This
work will be executed in
cities where there is no
established councils, as
well as cities that have a
rich history of lively and
vital councils. In the past
we have wavered on this
task, but no more. Let
us support the
organization efforts of
the Children of Light. It
is the goal of the HoA
to inspire citizens in our
realm to commit
themselves to civic duty.
This will be our strength;
this will be a corner
stone of our work in the
realm.

Support Education
Each Oracle and Sage will
make a personal
commitment to supporting
educational events in our
realm. We will host
classes in buildings
specifically engineered for
presentations and
discussion groups on
topics not limited simply
to the Virtues, but on
the vast array of
important and interesting
topics of our time.

This will include support
of any educational
institutions that request
or require it and specific
educational events that
are unique to the HoA.
This will also include the
dissemination of literature
to the young people of
our realm. Texts that
outline the goals and aims
of the HoA, texts that
support and espouse the
Virtues, and texts that
inspire the young to
incorporate their own

visions of community into
the greater mission of
the Heralds of the
Awakening.

A large piece of the
corner stone of education
is our publishing house,
the Bell, Book and Candle.
We will throw every piece
of our energy behind this
project to see it to
fruition. We will accept
submissions from the
realm at large in an
attempt to shine a light
on the ideas, philosophies,
and trends of our
combined culture. Even if
these philosophies are
contradictory to our own.